MEDIA ACCESS OFFICE NEWS





Disability Resource to the Entertainment Industry

M.A.O. MEMBER APPEARANCES

Codes:

AL-Leg Amputee B-Blind
CP-Cerebral Palsy D-Deaf
DD-Developmental Disability
Ds-Down syndrome

HI-Hearing Impaired ID-Invisible Disability

LP-Little Person MI-Mobility Impaired O-Other

PWD-Performers With Disabilities

VI-Visually Impaired WU-Wheelchair User

M.A.O. MEMBERS AND OTHER KNOWN PWD WHO ARE SERIES REGULARS/RECURRING

Michael J. Anderson (LP) as Samson "Carnivale" - HBO

Deanne Bray (D) as Sue Thomas "Sue Thomas F.B. Eye" - PAX

Robert David Hall (AL) as Coroner Dr. Robbins "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" - CBS

Anita Hollander (AL) as Shelley
"All My Children" - ABC

Geri Jewell (CP)

"Deadwood" - as Jewel - HBO and
"The Young & the Restless" - as Rose - CBS

Mitch Longley (WU) as Barry "Bear" Caldwell
"Joan of Arcadia" - CBS
and as Surveillance Team Member Mitch

and as Surveillance Team Member Mitch "Las Vegas" - NBC

'Regulars' Bios

Mitch Longley originated the role of Dr. Matthew Harmon in the ABC Daytime drama *Port Charles*. Dr. Harmon, who used a wheelchair, was determined to educate those around him that he was a man who didn't allow his physical limitations to get in the way of achieving his career goals in the field of medicine, or affect his personal relationships. After three years, Mitch exited the role on April 27, 2000, in order to pursue other interests.

Like his character, Mitch Longley has used a wheelchair since a car accident he sustained a few weeks before he turned eighteen. He survived a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from the waist down. But he never gave up his goal of becoming an actor, something he had dreamed

of since he was five years old.

After appearing in a Ralph Lauren Polo print ad, he caught the attention of casting agents and landed a role as Byron Pierce on the television series *Another World*. Other television credits include *Vanishing Son* and *Burning Zone*. In the 2001- 2002 seasons, he had a recurring role on the CBS television show, *Judging Amy*, as State's Attorney Jonathan Ashworth. He appeared on stage in 1997 and again in 2000 in a critically acclaimed one-man play that he wrote, titled *Courting Darkness*, in which he played 21 different characters who came into his life after his injury.

Mitch is a gifted photographer and artist, whose own experience as a paraplegic has provided the inspiration to create images through which he can experience the unencumbered body. An exhibit of his black and white photos, *Watermen from Naramake*, opened in Los Angeles in January 2002.

He is the founder of the non-profit organization <u>SOWOHO</u>, Spirit of the Wounded Horse, Inc., which helps underprivileged Native Americans with physical disabilities. In November, 1990, he traveled to Egypt and conducted research on disability-related issues. Mitch played on the professional wheelchair tennis circuit for a couple of years, capturing several doubles titles. He left tennis when he began his stint on *Another World*.

Mitch is a vegetarian and in his spare time he enjoys swimming, tennis, yoga, and photography. He is currently involved in several writing projects. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 23, 1965. He is 6' tall, has silver hair and brown eyes.

[Note: 'Regulars' Bios is an ongoing feature spotlighting those M.A.O. Members who have recurring or regular roles on television. Material is either derived from the actors themselves or official web sites.]

THEATRE APPEARANCES

Summertime'

Where: Boston Court, 70 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena. Reservations: (626) 683-6883 or www.bostoncourt.com. When: Now through July 11th - tickets are \$25 - \$30.

M.A.O. member *Marcia deRousse (LP)* is featured in Charles Mee's collage of existing text and pieces of pop culture in this riotous, poignant and giddy exploration of the nature of love.



(Church of 80% Sincerity)

Where: 1329 Seventh Avenue (Seventh Avenue

Presbyterian Church). San Francisco Reservations: 415/664-2543, or online at:

www.seventhavenuechurch.org/performances.htm. When: July 30, 8 PM. Tickets at the door, \$10 general

admission/\$5 student/senior. ASL Interpreted.

Born with a facial cavernous hemangioma, M.A.O. member David Roche (O) has turned his disability into a gift of inspiration, courage and laughter for others. David presents his signature piece, an acclaimed, award-winning one-man show which has played to enthusiastic audiences in 26 states, Canada, Australia, England and at the Clinton White House!

Congratulations to M.A.O. Members

M.A.O. Member Anita Hollander (AL) will be performing at Surflight Theatre in Beach Haven, NJ (near Atlantic City) from July 6th through September 19th, performing in three productions, including as Grizabella in Cats.

Reminder to M.A.O. Members - We would like to have your appearances in film, television & theatre mentioned in the newsletter in a timely fashion. Please email DGordy@edd.ca.gov with your info by the third week of the month prior to the month in which you will appear.

HOLLYWOOD NETWORKING BREAKFAST

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: PHIL ROSENTHAL, awardwinning writer/producer, and Creator/Executive Producer of 'Everybody Loves Raymond," will be guest speaker at the next Hollywood Networking Breakfast. The event will be held Thursday, July 29, 2004, at the Wyndham Bel Age Hotel in West Hollywood, from 8:00AM to 10:30AM. Check-in starts at 7:20AM. PHIL ROSENTHAL'S experience as writer, producer, director, actor allows him to easily relate to other accomplished or aspiring writers. producers, directors or actors. Phil Rosenthal has been the creator/executive producer of the critically acclaimed CBS hit comedy, "Everybody Loves Raymond," now in its eighth season, since 1996. He was nominated for a Best Writing Emmy with Ray Romano in 2000 and again in 2002. Rosenthal has the distinction of having directed President Bill Clinton in the White House Correspondents Dinner video, which was shown to wide acclaim at the April, 2000 event. He co-wrote the "America: A Tribute to Heroes" telethon which aired on all four networks, won a Peabody Award and an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Writing. Rosenthal won the 2002 Writers Guild Award for Excellence in Television Writing for his script, "Italy." Rosenthal's early credits include series "Man in the Family" and "A Family for

Joe." He was a supervising producer on "Down the Shore" and on "Coach," where he also honed his directing chops.

Thursday, July 29, 2004, 8 AM-10:30 AM. Wyndham Bel Age Hotel, 1020 N. San Vicente, West Hollywood, CA 90069. Check-in starts at 7:20 AM. On-time reservations: \$25.00 per person. Checks must be postmarked by July 22, 2004, to be considered "on-time". Make checks payable to: Changing Images In America, P.O. Box 2688, Hollywood, CA 90078. (310) 477-0996, ext. 3. Your check is your confirmation. You MUST list your contact phone number and the names of all guests who are included on your check. For additional Breakfast Guidelines and policies, including late reservations and walk-ins, go to: www.changingimagesinamerica.org.

Notice: Hollywood Global Entertainment Network also produces a free industry newsletter to which you may subscribe. For info, go to: http://hgenonline.com/ newsletters/subscribe.asp. Also their new and improved web site features more opportunities for networking online and in-person, including a brand new forum. HGEN is offering a free 3-month trial membership at: http://hgenonline.com/membership benefits.asp.

Mentoring Students with Disabilities

The Teen Access Mentor Program, known as TAP, provides mentoring, academic, social and personal enrichment services, combined with college and career counseling to LAUSD middle and high school students with disabilities. TAP unites young people with disabilities with adult mentors, who may also have disabilities, over a two- to five-year period to form a unique bond. The mentor's role is to encourage a student's commitment to education, career exploration, community service and advocacy. Every student is different and the mentor's role is to help him/her become all that he/she would like to be!

Both mentors and students commit to active involvement with each other by seeing each other regularly, and by participating in events and activities, which are generally a combination of social, recreational, cultural, community service, and educational opportunities offered by Fulfillment Fund and collaborating agencies. For the first three months we ask mentors to commit to seeing their students twice a month in an outing of four or more hours and having at least four additional monthly contacts by telephone. After three months the minimum in person commitment is one half-day activity per month, along with weekly phone calls and/or letters. As a trusted friend, the mentor is in a position to help the student develop both short and long-term goals and problem-solving techniques. as well as to guide him/her through various life challenges. Students and mentors receive ongoing support and training throughout the years via case management, various workshops, and rap sessions. Our mentors tell us that being a part of our program is truly a fun and lifechanging experience!

(Continues...)

July 2004 (Continued...)

We need a large number of mentor role models for our Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) students with disabilities, and we especially need adult professionals with disabilities or people who are familiar with disability related issues. If you are a non-smoker, working, in school, or about to be working, and are over the age of 24 ½, please consider becoming a mentor with us.

If you would like to become a mentor, have any questions, or need further information, please contact me at (310) 407-8163. Feel free to visit our website at www.fulfillment.org.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Office Appointments

Due to staffing limitations and increased time constraints, it is requested that MAO members who wish to consult with Gloria in the LA office make an appointment prior to dropping by. Drop-ins from now on will be accommodated **ONLY** on a very limited and time-available basis. To save yourself a needless trip to the office, you are strongly encouraged to call (818) 752-1196 prior to coming in, if you wish to speak with Gloria.

Scholarship Competition Preparation

M.A.O. MEMBERS ADULT & YOUNG PERFORMERS: It's time to start preparation for the upcoming acting scholarship opportunity, which will be taking place in September (date TBA) at the Media Access Office in LA. Call 818/752-1196 to ask for an application. To participate, you will need to prepare a scene (with a partner of your choice) of no longer than 3 minutes. You will also need to provide a 250-word Bio and 250-word Letter of Intent on what you would do with the scholarship money if you won. Scholarship amounts will vary from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

M.A.O. Members – The office is compiling statistics and tracking results of auditions and work that Performers with Disabilities have done. It is VERY important that you please be sure to call the Reporting Line when you have an audition or work.

REPORTING LINE (818) 753-3425 (North Hollywood) (925) 602-1542 (M.A.O. North)

Looking for information about us?

Get more info about the work of the Friends of the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Inc.
and the Media Access Office at:
www.disabilityemployment.org



Congratulations to M.A.O. Comedy Scholarship Winners!

The 5th Annual Norman G. Brooks Stand-Up Comedy Scholarship Competition took place at The Improv club in Hollywood on Wednesday, June 23rd. Thirteen lucky finalists competed before a packed house for the 1st place award of \$1,500 cash, generously provided by Fern Field in memory of her late husband, Norman G. Brooks. Two Honorable Mentions of acting scholarships were provided by the Howard Fine Studios and instructor Laura Gardner, and Janet Alhanti Studios. Congratulations to all the finalists and our winners:

1st Place MICHAEL ARONIN

Honorable Mentions
JEFF CHARLEBOIS
FRANKY "C"



Do you have information for the Newsletter? Write, phone or fax us at:

The Media Access Office 4640 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 305 N. Hollywood, CA 91602 (818) 752-1196 Voice (818) 753-3426 Fax (818) 753-3427 TTY

Media Access Office - North 363 Civic Drive Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (925) 602-1542 Voice (925)-602-1540 Fax 711 for CA Relay Service

REACH US VIA E-MAIL:

Gloria M. Castañeda – <u>GCastane@edd.ca.gov</u> (Send Gloria an e-mail if you would like to receive last minute M.A.O. information or announcements via email.)

Dr. Douglas Gordy (M.A.O. North) - DGordy@edd.ca.gov

The Media Access Office is staffed by the Employment Development Department and the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Volunteers and in-kind donations through the Friends of the CGCEPD, Inc. support the office. ❖



Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor State of California

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